

Public Safety. Zola regretted the hills and the  
sun of Provence, the companionship of Bailie and Cdzanne;  
he felt lost among his new school-fellows, four hundred in  
number; and his poverty and shabbiness increased his  
bitterness of spirit, for the lads attending St. Louis were all more  
fortunately circumstanced than himself. That Lycde, which  
then faced the Rue de la Harpe — the transformation of the  
old Quartier Latin by the tracing of the Boulevard St.  
Michel being as yet uneffected — ranked third among the  
great colleges of Paris; and among those who had sat on its  
benches were the second Dr. Baron Corvisart, Gounod  
the composer, Egger the Hellenist and poet, Havet  
the Latinist and historian of early Christianity, and  
Nettement, whose account of French literature under the  
Eestoration is still worthy of perusal. Other pupils, before  
Zola's time, were Henri Eochefort the erratic journalist and  
politician, Charles Floquet the advocate, who became  
prime minister of France; Dr. Tripier, one of the pioneers in the  
application of electricity to medicine, and the well-known  
General de Galliffet. Many of the professors also were able  
men who rose to eminence, and in such a college one  
might have thought that Zola would have made decisive  
progress.

As it happened, he not only got on badly with

his school-fellows,—who on account of the southern accent he had acquired in Provence nicknamed him the "Marseillaise,"—but, yielding to a brooding spirit, he neglected his lessons. It was only in French composition that he occasionally distinguished himself. One day, it appears, when the allotted subject was "Milton dictating 'Paradise Lost' to his daughter," he treated it so ably that the professor, M. Levasseur,—the eminent historian of the French work-